

## PATENT

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August 13, 2002

Eleanor J. Halik  
Eleanor J. Halik

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U. S. Serial No. 09/943,366

Filed: August 29, 2001

Klaus-Peter Harth

Group Art Unit: 3744

COOLING FAN SYSTEM FOR A VEHICLE  
WITH FUEL CELL PROPULSION

Examiner: William E. Tapolcai

RESTRICTION/ELECTION

FAX RECEIVED

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

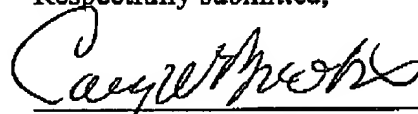
AUG 13 2002

GROUP 3700

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 22, 2002 requiring a restriction  
and/or election, Applicant elects to prosecute the invention of Group I, including claims  
1-22.

Respectfully submitted,



Cary W. Brooks - Attorney  
Reg. No. 33361  
(313) 665-4717

CWB:ejh

US Serial No. 09/943,366 -- 1

PATENT

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on September 23, 2002  
E. Eleanor J. Halik  
Eleanor J. Halik

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U. S. Serial No. 09/943,366

Filed: August 30, 2001

Klaus-Peter Harth

Group Art Unit: 3744  
Confirmation No. 7763

FUEL CELL SYSTEM FOR A VEHICLE  
WITH FUEL CELL PROPULSION

Examiner: William E. Tapolcai

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please consider the following amended claims:

In the claims:

Please amend the following claims 1-22 as follows:

1. (Amended) A fuel cell system comprising a plurality of fuel cells, a heat exchanger, at least one cooling fan adapted to direct a cooling air flow through said heat exchanger, an air branching device adapted to branch off at least a part of the cooling air flow delivered by said at least one cooling fan, a duct for receiving said branched-off air flow and for directing it to said fuel cells for the purpose of at least one of starting of the fuel cells and maintenance of the operation of the fuel cells.